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DUN'S REVIEW

A Weekly Survey of Business Conditions
in the United States and Canada

October 30, 1926

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WHOLESALE QUOTATIONS OF COMMODITIES

Corrected each week to Friday

ARTICLE	This Week	Last Year	ARTICLE	This Week	Last Year	ARTICLE	This Week	Last Year
APPLES: Common.....bbl	2.50	2.50	Gambier.....lb	10	14%	Palm, Lagos.....lb	8 3/4	8 3/4
Fancy.....bbl	5.50	7.00	Indigo, Madras.....lb	1.18	1.00	Petroleum, cr., at well.....bbl	3.40	3.10
BEANS: Marrow, ch. 100 lb	7.00	9.25	Prunella, yellow.....lb	18 1/2	18 1/2	Kerosene, wagon deliv., gal	18	17
Pea, choice....." "	6.25	5.85	Indigo Paste, 20%....." "	14 1/2	26	Gas, auto in gar., et. bbls	21	17
Red kidney, choice....." "	8.75	11.00	FERTILIZERS:			Min. lub. dark flit'd E....." "	28	20
White kidney, choice....." "	7.75	9.00	Bones, ground, steamed			Dark flit'd D....." "	29	32
BUILDING MATERIAL:			1 1/4 am., 60% bone			Paraffin, 903 spec. gr....." "	23	23
Brick, Hud. R. com., 1000	15.50	15.00	phosphate, Chicago.....ton	27.00	25.00	Wax, ref., 125 m. p.....lb	5.75	6 1/4
Portland Cement, North-			Muriate potash, 80%....." "	34.90	34.90	Rosin, first run....." "	80	70
ampton, Pa. Mill.....bbl	1.85	1.85	Nitrate soda.....100 lbs	2.45	2.35	prompt....." "	10 1/2	11 1/2
Lath, Eastern spruce, 1000	7.30	7.25	Sulphate, ammonia, do-			Spot....." "	14 1/4	14 1/4
Lime, f.o.b. fly, 200 lb bbl	1.90	1.90	mestic f.o.b. works....." "	2.50	2.95	PAINTS: Litharge, Am.....lb	11 1/4	11 1/4
Shingles, Cyp. No. 1, 1000	13.00	13.00	Sul. potash, 80%.....ton	45.85	45.85	Ochre, French....." "	3 1/4	4 1/4
Red Cedar, clear.....1000	9.10	12.05	Winter, Soft Straights....." "	7.60	7.50	Paris, White, Am.....100	1.25	1.25
BURLAP, 10 1/2 in. x 40 in. yd	9.10	12.05	Fancy Minn. Family....." "	9.20	9.75	Red Lead, American....." "	1.55	1.40
8-oz. 40-in. yd....." "	7.25	9.00	GRAIN: Wheat, No. 2 R bu	1.65	1.72	Vermilion, English....." "	1.55	1.40
COAL: f.o.b. Mines.....ton			Corn, No. 2 yellow....." "	92	1.00	White Lead in Oil....." "	10 1/2	10 1/2
Bituminous:			Oats, white....." "	1.07	89	Whiting Comcl.....100	85	1.00
Navy Standard....." "	89.25-89.75		Hay, No. 1.....100 lbs	1.40	1.50	Zinc, American....." "	7 1/2	7 1/2
High Vol. Steam....." "	2.75	2.00	Straw, lg. rye, No. 2....." "	1.1	95	" F. P. R. S....." "	10 1/2	10 1/2
Anthracite:			HEMP: Midway, ship.....lb	18	19	PAPER: News roll, 100 lbs	3.25	3.75
Stove (Independent)....." "	9.50-10.00		HIDES, Chicago:			Book, S. S. & C.....lb	10	7
Chestnut (Independent)....." "	9.20-9.50		Packer, No. 1 native.....lb	16	17	Writing, tub-sized....." "	6.25	7 1/2
Stove (Company)....." "	9.25-9.50		No. 1 Texas....." "	15	15 1/2	No. 1 Kraft....." "	42.50	47.50
Chestnut (Company)....." "	8.75-9.25		Colorado....." "	14 1/2	14 1/2	Boards, chip....." "	57.50	57.00
Fee (Company)....." "	6.00-6.50		No. 1 heavy native....." "	15	18 1/2	Boards, wood pulp....." "	3.75	4.00
COFFEE, No. 7 Rio.....lb	16 1/4	19 1/2	Branded Cows....." "	11 1/2	12 1/2	Sulphite, Dom. bl. 100 lbs	45	50
Santos No. 4....." "	20 1/2	23 1/2	No. 1 buff hides....." "	14 1/2	15	Old Paper No. 1 Mix. 100	6.35	5.75
COTTON GOODS:			No. 1 extremes....." "	14	15 1/2	PEAS: Yellow split, 100	110.00	120.00
Brown sheet, stand. yd	12	14 1/2	No. 1 Kip....." "	113	116 1/2	PROVISIONS, Chicago:		
Wide sheetings, 10-4....." "	17 1/4	19	Chicago City white....." "	160	60	Beef, steers, live.....100 lbs	10.50	13.50
Bleached sheetings, st....." "	12 1/4	14 1/2	HOPS: N. Y. prime 28....." "	6	14 1/2	Hogs, live....." "	12.65	11.20
Medium....." "	9 1/2	11 1/2	JUTE: Shipment....." "	43	43	Lard, N. Y. Mid. W....." "	14.20	15.95
Brown sheetings, 4 yd....." "	12 1/4	14 1/2	LEATHER:			Fork, mess.....bbl	25.00	27.00
Standard prints....." "	12 1/4	14 1/2	Union backs, t....." "	46	50	Sheep, live....." "	12.50	12.50
Brown drills, standard....." "	12 1/4	14 1/2	Belt, Butts, No. 1, light	57	61	Short ribs, sides 1/2 e....." "	18.75	19.95
Staple ginghams....." "	9	11 1/2	LUMBER:			Bacon, N. Y., 140s down lb	20	19 1/2
Print cloths, 35 1/2 inch	6 1/4	9 1/4	Western Hemlock....." "	32.00	35.00	Hams, N. Y., big, in tea....." "	25 1/4	24 1/2
64x100....." "	28 1/2-29	41-43	No. 1 Rough.....per M ft	71.00	71.00	Tallow, N. Y., sp. loose....." "	7 1/2	9 1/2
Hose, belting duck....." "	47 1/2	50	White Pine, No. 1....." "	159.00	165.00	RICE: Dom. P. head....." "	6	7 1/2
DAIRY:			Board, 1st....." "	119.00	120.00	Blue Rose, choice....." "	3.75	3 1/2
Butter, creamery, extra.....lb	25	27	FAS Qtd. Wh. Oak....." "	108.00	90.00	Foreign, Saigon No. 1....." "	38 1/2	96
Cheese, N. Y., Fresh spl....." "	25	27	FAS Pl. Wh. Oak....." "	121.50	124.00	RUBBER: Up-river, fine....." "	42 1/2	1.03
Cheese, N. Y., 5. held spec....." "	74	82	FAS Pl. Red Gum....." "	121.00	117.00	Plan, 1st Latex cr....." "	1.90	1.86
Graze nearby, fancy.....dos.	41	45	Beach, No. 1 Com....." "	45.00	50.00	SALT: Table, 200 lb sack		
Fresh gathered fruits....." "	11	11 1/2	FAS Birch, Red....." "	130.00	140.00	Mackerel, No. 1 way fat		
DRIED FRUITS:			FAS Cypress, 4/4....." "	102.50	100.00	No. 3.....bbl	18.00	23.00
Apples, evap., choice.....lb	22 1/2	21	FAS Chestnut, 4/4....." "	104.50	111.00	Cod, Grand Banks, 100 lbs	10.00	9.00
Apricots, choice 1928....." "	29	42	No. 1 Com. Mahog....." "	170.00	150.00	SILK: China, St. Fil 1st lb	6.00	7.50
Citron, imported....." "	9 1/2	10 1/2	FAS H. Maple, 4/4....." "	100.00	105.00	Japan, Fil., No. 1....." "	5.95	6.80
Currents, cleaned....." "	17	17	Adirondack Spruce....." "	38.00	39.00	SPICES: Mace.....lb	1.08	1.06
Orange peel....." "	18	16	N. C. Pine, 4/4....." "	58.75	60.00	Cloves, Zanzibar....." "	45	27 1/2
Peaches, Cal. standard....." "	14 1/2	13	Edge, under 12....." "	60.00	59.00	Nutmegs, 105s-110s....." "	14	20
Prunes, Cal., 40-50, 25....." "	9 1/4	8 1/2	No. 2 and Better....." "	80.50	82.00	Ginger, Cochiti....." "	24	23 1/4
RAISINS, Mal. 4-cr. 20-lb Box	4.50	7%	FAS Bassw'd, 4/4....." "	33.00	35.00	Pepper, Lampong, black....." "	40	32 1/2
Cal. stand. loose mus.....lb	10	7%	Cal. Redwood, 4/4....." "	33.00	35.00	" Monbana....." "	17	17
DRUGS & CHEMICALS:			Clear....." "	33.00	90.00	SUGAR: Cent. 96, 100 lbs	5.75	5.00
Acetanilid, U.S.P. bbl.....lb	3.25	3.00	No. Carolina Pine....." "	32.75	32.00	Fine gran., in bbls....." "	27 1/2	23
Acid, Acetic, 28 deg. 100....." "	44 1/2	45 1/2	Roofers, 13/16x....." "	21.78	23.28	TEX: Formosa, fair.....lb	35	34
Carbolic druggs....." "	85	85	Pig iron, No. 2X, Ph. ton	18.00	19.00	Fine....." "	20	20
Citric, domestic....." "	85	85	Basic, valley furnace....." "	21.26	20.76	Burley-color-Common....." "	16	22
Muriatic, 18.....100	85	85	Bessemer, Pittsburgh....." "	19.76	24.05	Medium....." "	1.50	26
Nitric, 42....." "	85	85	gray force, Pittsburgh....." "	23.69	23.65	VEGETABLES: Cabbage bbl	1.25	1.25
Oxalic....." "	11	11	No. 2 So. Cincl....." "	35.00	33.50	White, pure....." "	6.00	1.75
Stearic, double pressed....." "	12 1/2	15 1/2	Bullets, Bessemer, Pgh....." "	40.00	40.00	Potatoes.....bbl	1.85	1.50
Sulphuric, 60.....100	29 1/2	29	open-heart, Phila....." "	45.00	45.00	Turnips, rutabaga....." "		
Tartaric crystals....." "	22.75	22.75	Wire rods, Pittsburgh....." "	48.00	45.00	WOOL, Boston:		
Alum, lump.....lb	3.35	3.35	O-h, rails, hy. at mill....." "	2.22	1.90	Aver, 98 quot.....lb	67.71	77.97
Ammonia carbate dom....." "	10 1/4	11	Iron bars, ref., Phil. 100 lb	2.00	2.00	Ohio & Pa., Fleeces:		
Arsenic, white....." "	3 1/2	3 1/2	Steel bars, Pittsb....." "	1.90	1.80	Delaine Unwashed....." "	45	54
Balsam, Copaiba, S. A....." "	11.00	10.75	Tank plates, Pittsb....." "	2.00	1.80	Half-Blood Combing....." "	45	53
Peru.....lb	1.75	1.90	Beams, Pittsburgh....." "	2.00	1.90	Half-Blood Combing....." "	49	47
Beeswax, African, crude....." "	34	36	Sheets, black, No. 24....." "	3.00	3.15	Common and Braid....." "	38	42
Bi-carb'te soda, Am. 100....." "	2.41	2.25	Wire Nails, Pittsb....." "	2.65	2.85	Mich. & N. Y. Fleeces:		
Bleaching powder, over 34%.....100	2.00	2.00	Barb Wire, gal- vanized, Pittsburgh....." "	3.35	3.35	Delaine Unwashed....." "	43	50
Borax, crystal, in bbl....." "	23.00	20.00	Galv. Sh's No. 24, Pitts....." "	3.85	4.30	Half-Blood Combing....." "	43	52
Brimstone, crude, dom.....ton	1.59	1.37	Furnace, prompt ship....." "	4.00	5.50	Half-Blood Combing....." "	39	42
Calomel, American.....lb	7.29	8.4	Foundry, prompt ship....." "	4.00	5.50	Win. Mo. & N. E.: Half-Blood....." "	42	49
Camphor, domestic....." "	14.00	12.00	Aluminum, pig (ton lots)....." "	27	28	Quarter-Blood....." "	43	50
Castile soap, white.....case	12 1/4	16	Antimony, ordinary....." "	13.95	19 1/4	Ordinary Mediums....." "	43	50
Castor Oil, No. 1.....lb	3.10	3.10	Copper, electrolytic....." "	7.55	8.07 1/2	Ky., W. Va., etc., Three- eighths Blood Unwashed....." "	48	55
Caustic soda 76%.....100	30	30 1/2	Lead, N. Y....." "	68 1/2	9.50	Quar-Blood Combing....." "	47	54
Chlorate potash....." "	5.00	8.00	Tin, N. Y....." "	6.50	5.50	Texas, Scoured Basis:		
Chloroform....." "	35	31	MOLASSES AND SYRUP:			Fine, 12 months....." "	1.10	1.25
Cocaine, Hydrochloride....." "	26.00	39.00	Ex. Fancy.....gal	13	16	Fine, 3 months....." "	90	1.10
Cocoa Butter, bulk....." "	21	22	Syrup, sugar, medium....." "	27	25	Calif. Scoured Basis:		
Codliver Oil, Norway.....bbl	1.85	2.00	NAVAL STORES: Pitch bbl	8.50	6.50	Northern....." "	1.05	1.20
Creosote, 90%....." "	29	20	Rosin "B"....." "	13.60	15.55	Southern....." "	80	1.00
Formaldehyde....." "	20	24	Tar, kilo burned....." "	16.00	14.00	Oregon, Scoured Basis:		
Gum-Arabic, picked....." "	20	24	Turpentine.....gal	8 1/2	12 1/2	Valley No. 1....." "	1.08	1.25
Rensol....." "	1.05	1.25	Crude, tks., f.o.b. coast....." "	8 1/2	11	Territory, Scoured Basis:		
Gamboge....." "	61	74	China Wood, bbls, spot....." "	15 1/4	13 1/4	Fine Staple Choice....." "	1.10	1.20
Shellac, D. C....." "	1.50	1.45	Cod, domestic....." "	14	11 1/4	Half-Blood Combing....." "	1.00	1.15
Tragacanth, Aleppo let....." "	19	21	Newfoundland....." "	65	62	Fine Clothing....." "	95	1.25
Licorice Extract....." "	13	14	Corn crude....." "	8 1/2	13	Pulled: Delaine....." "	98	1.05
Powdered....." "	4.95	9.75	Cottonseed....." "	8	8	Fine Combing....." "	97	7.5
Menthol, cases....." "	7.35	7.35	Cr. Tks. at Mill....." "	12 1/4	17 1/4	Coarse Combing....." "	1.10	1.20
Morphine, Sulph., bulk, os	40 1/2	44 1/2	Ex. No. 1 Winter....." "	17 1/4	13 1/4	California Fine....." "		
Nitrate Silver, crystals....." "	12.00	12.00	Linseed, city raw....." "	11 1/2	14 1/2	WOODEN GOODS:		
Opium, jobbing lots....." "	89.60	84.00	Neatsfoot, pure....." "	15 1/4	14 1/4	Stand. Clay Work, 16-oz. rd	3.05	3.25 1/4
Quinine, 100-oz. tin.....oz	40	50				Serge, 11-oz....." "	2.27 1/2	2.82 1/4
Rochelle Salts.....lb	11 1/4	11 1/2				Serge, 10-oz....." "	3.17 1/2	3.50
Sal soda, American 100....." "	98	1.30				Fancy Cassimere, 13-oz....." "	1.95	2.35
Saltpetre, crystals....." "	73	74				36-in. all-worsted serge....." "	87 1/2	65
Sarsaparilla, Honduras....." "	1.38	1.38				ama....." "	55	62 1/4
Soda ash, 58% light 100....." "	50	50				Broadcloth, 54-in....." "	4.12 1/2	4.32 1/2
Soda benzoate....." "	4.40	4.50						
Stramonium....." "	84	42						
DIETETICS:								
Bi-chromate Potash, am. lb	8 1/4	8 1/4						
Cochineal, silver....." "	71	65						
Outch....." "	18	14						

+ Advance from previous week. Advances 33 — Decline from previous week. Declines 26 † Quotations nominal *Carload shipments, f.o.b., New York.

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THE WEEK

SEVERAL occurrences of the week have been of special significance. The estimate of a record cotton crop, the notably favorable financial statements of two big industrial corporations, the reporting of unprecedentedly heavy freight car loadings, the raising of its dividend rate by one of the leading railroad systems, the stabilization of Belgium's currency, and the floating of a large loan by that country have been distinguishing features, with an important bearing on the economic situation. The remarkable earnings of the foremost companies in the steel and automobile trades reflect the exceptional activity which has prevailed in those fields this year, while the increase in the Pennsylvania Railroad's dividend, placing it on the highest basis in nearly two decades, is another proof of commercial prosperity. These particular phases, supplemented and supported by some other evidences of progress, have had a stimulating effect upon sentiment, notwithstanding that business has recently developed more irregularity, with indications of a slowing down in some quarters. Where such a change has come, it has been mainly a gradual and orderly contraction, and one that does not seem unnatural when the previous expansion is considered. The present slackening in certain lines, including steel markets, contrasts with broadening operations a year ago, yet such a comparison is modified by the fact that transactions last Summer disclosed less than the usual seasonal curtailment. The relatively high level of trade at that time, during which a part of Autumn's needs were apparently provided for, should not be disregarded in analyzing existing conditions. The influence of lower commodity quotations, moreover, accounts in some measure for the current decreases in bank clearings at some cities, and in the South, where the losses have become more general, the very low price for cotton is tending to repress mercantile activities. Its compensating effect, on the other hand, has been to encourage a larger use of the staple by domestic mills, while exports have increased.

Another official report on the cotton crop this week indicates a record production, 17,454,000 bales being the latest estimate. This is 827,000 bales above the

calculations made for October 1, and the estimate, like earlier ones this season, exceeded the trade's expectations. Despite the huge size of this year's harvest, however, only 8,722,066 bales had been ginned up to October 17, which is nearly 800,000 bales less than the total for the same period last year. The amount of cotton ginned proved to be less than had been looked for, and this fact tended to offset the very bearish character of the crop report. Moreover, cotton prices have already had an extended decline, and such selling as developed this week met with a good deal of resistance. At its closing price of 12.70c. on Thursday, the March option was fully 6c. below that of a year ago, when a downward trend was also in progress.

A full movement of seasonable dry goods continues to be reported, with a steady demand for replacements. The general situation, however, shows a number of irregularities. There is delay in anticipating future needs in cottons, partly because of the unusual position of the raw material, but in some other lines, including dress goods, cloakings and silks, Spring business is expanding. On the whole, consumption of textiles remains of large volume, and it is stated that inventories in many houses are low. More of a leaning toward staples is noted, extremes in styles apparently being less popular. Meantime, production is large and this condition is expected to hold until the close of the year, at least.

The trend toward reduced operations in steel, recently noted, has become rather more evident. It is not yet pronounced, but a slowing down is reported in different districts. With an abatement of new demands, output has decreased somewhat, and the mills of the principal producer are said to be running at slightly less than an 85 per cent. rate. As a whole, however, the industry is working on about the same scale as a year ago. Of the unusual activity during the Summer, the Steel Corporation's financial statement for the third quarter gives a striking illustration. Exceeding \$52,600,000, the net earnings for that period were surprisingly large and surpass those of any quarter since the second quarter of 1918. Comparing

with the earnings of the third quarter of last year, an increase of nearly 24 per cent. is shown.

More definite signs appear of easing in domestic hide markets. Actual sales of domestic packer stock at declines of $\frac{1}{2}$ c. have been reported, while country hides are also tending lower. Similarly, there is a softer undertone at the River Plate, with buyers talking of reduced prices. In contrast with these trends, there is

conspicuous strength in the domestic sole leather trade. Supplies of offal, particularly, are short, and for this reason some buyers have been compelled to turn to cheaper material. The situation in upper leather differs from that in sole leather, there being less activity and strength in the former variety. More competition, in fact, is noted in side upper leather, with considerable quantities moved by tanners who have been willing to make concessions.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Eastern States

BOSTON.—The business outlook continues favorable. Cotton textiles are improving. The mills are making a steady increase in output, and with the lower prices of raw material, prospects are for a better return on the capital invested. Current sales are moderate and prices show little change. Woolen goods are not selling quite so well and many mills are still behind on orders, yet the wool market, too, is not quite so active. Domestic wools have the best call. Local dealers are slow in making purchases abroad at current price levels. Receipts of wool to date have been 310,069,400 lbs., as compared with 260,070,500 lbs. last year. The price advance on worsted yarns has retarded sales. Cotton yarns are moving in much larger volume at lower prices. Carpet yarns are active.

After showing a shrinkage for several weeks building contracts awarded in New England last week amounted to \$14,000,000, which was about \$4,000,000 larger than the same week last year. Fish receipts have been heavy, making the total to date 9,000,000 ahead of 1925. The sale of building lumber is moderate, but as production at this season is light prices are tending upwards. There is a fairly good call for hardwoods but prices are weak. Tanners are well supplied with hides and are less willing to pay the increased prices. Leather continues active. The chief call is for uppers and sole leather. Patent leather has quieted down. Prices are tending upward. The shoe factories are active, the best call being for the women's lines. The chemical industries are expanding. Current prices are steady, but future deliveries in some lines are lower. Tanning materials are more active and the mills are purchasing dyestuffs more freely. Prices are firm. Rubber footwear plants are operating to capacity.

NEWARK.—Seasonable weather for the last few days has had a favorable influence on retail trade, which is now about normal for this time of the year, with some improvement in the demand for wearing apparel for Fall and Winter. Millinery, hosiery, silks and silk hosiery are selling well, with little evidence of recession in price. Moderate reductions recently made in the price of certain makes of automobiles have not to date appreciably augmented sales of new cars, though accessories and auto supplies are selling reasonably well. Radio parts and sets are in demand, but a good part of this business is now transacted on a partial-payment plan basis. Farmers and apple growers in some sections of the State are inclined to complain about the rather low price. The yield this year has been unusually large.

Not much change is noted in industry. It is now referred to as slightly less regular than a few weeks back. Jewelry manufacturers are rather more quiet than usual at this time of the year. Paints and varnishes are experiencing a slowing-down tendency, and some other lines, too, are apparently hesitant for the time being. Manufacturers of advertising specialties and novelties, however, are

busy, reporting a large volume of business. While there is further evidence of lessened activity in building construction, to date this is not very marked locally, and little or no change has taken place in the demand for lumber and building material. Prices remain substantially unchanged. On the whole, the general volume of business compares favorably with that of previous seasons, with collections slightly below normal.

PHILADELPHIA.—Increased sales is the almost universal report of the week from a diversity of trades. Stocks of retailers are generally low, and the outlook is encouraging.

Conditions in the yarn business at the moment are somewhat better than was the case thirty or sixty days ago; that is, there is more demand, but it is difficult to consummate very much business, as customers' ideas are from 2c. to 3c. a pound below the mill's asking price. The slump in cotton has made some buyers hesitate; while it is believed the lower prices will increase consumption, it will take a little while for the lower prices to work up to the ultimate consumer. Collections have been very good and it appears as though textile manufacturers had an opportunity of making a little better margin this year with cotton yarn prices where they are now.

Wool merchants state that some branches of their business have improved materially, while others have not come forward with any decided improvement. Prices are better, and each day trade is expanding. It is thought that mills have some business which will carry them into next year.

Conditions in the manufacture of clothing are much better than they have been for some time. Collections have improved.

Manufacturers of morocco leather are finding business very satisfactory, and factories are running to full capacity. Producers of glazed kid have found no diminution in the demand since the beginning of September. Total production is being fully consumed and heavy inroads are being made on the surplus stock which all manufacturers were carrying at the commencement of the demand, which started in last May, especially for blacks. With manufacturers of traveling bags and suitcases, the volume of business is equal to last year's, and the demand is brisk, since this starts the holiday rush season. Prices are very firm, with a tendency to rise. Collections are fair. Increasing sales are reported by manufacturers of shoes. Stocks are low and collections fair to good.

There has been a slow but steady increase in the furniture business. The unshipped business on October 1, reported by upwards of one hundred manufacturers, was more than that for the first of any month this year, with the exception of February. The amount of unshipped business exceeds the amount of any month in 1924 or 1925. Collections are slow to fair; labor is well employed.

Distributors of automobiles and accessories are having a very good Fall business.

Prices of canned goods, with the exception of tomatoes, are low. Demand for the latter from retailers has been small, as they are probably selling their old stocks. The short pack of tomatoes in the East and South, with higher prices, has caused large purchases to be made of California goods.

PITTSBURGH.—Colder weather has caused a greater demand for seasonable merchandise at both wholesale and retail. Sales of dry goods are larger than last week's, and greater in volume than those of a year ago. Wearing apparel is generally moving better than was the case last week. Shoes are somewhat more active, with demand for women's and children's shoes greater than for men's; sales of work shoes being lightest. Sales of rubber footwear show some improvement. Hardware in seasonable lines shows more activity, but builders' hardware is rather quiet. The lumber and building material market is not very active, construction work being considerably less than a year ago. Sales of confectionery, cigars and tobacco show a moderate increase. Groceries are moving in slightly greater volume. Wholesale jewelers report an increased demand for holiday merchandise. Collections are slightly better.

Industrial plants show a slight reduction in operations, steel mills operating at close to 80 per cent. While demand for window glass is better, plate glass is moving at a lessened rate, with buying for immediate needs. Foreign competition continues strong in Eastern markets. Plumbing supplies are in fair demand, while heating equipment is moving very well. Electrical merchandise is in fair request, and radio equipment is steadily increasing in volume of sales. Production of crude oil continues at a high rate with prices unchanged. Much activity prevails in the bituminous coal market, due to a considerable extent to the heavy demand for export, but also to much stronger buying from domestic sources. Prices have mounted rapidly during the past week. Western Pennsylvania grades are now quoted as follows for run-of-mine coal per net ton at mines: steam coal \$3 to \$3.50; gas coal \$3 to \$3.50, and slack \$3.

BUFFALO.—Seasonable merchandise is in better demand, showing the effects of cooler weather, and sales for the week show very satisfactory results. Wearing apparel and house furnishings are especially active. Winter coats, both men's and women's, are in poor supply, due to a scarcity in the manufacturing market. Prices are well maintained. Radio dealers are doing an active business and are well supplied with merchandise for the Winter trade. Electrical supplies are in demand and sales are showing an increase over the corresponding period of last year. Manufacturers and wholesalers report repeat orders in increased volume, reflecting low stocks in the hands of the retailer. Mills are working to capacity filling uncompleted orders with some commitments ahead for future delivery. Fabricating plants are operating at about 85 to 90 per cent. Pig iron is showing some slight increase in demand. Prices remain unchanged at around \$21.00.

Southern States

ST. LOUIS.—Business conditions are hardly up to the standard of last year. The current week's business has shown a falling off from last week and colder weather is needed to materially increase retail lines. Wholesale merchants continue to cover their immediate requirements conservatively, although there is a fairly active and urgent demand for seasonable goods, such as blankets and Fall underwear. There has been further curtailment of orders from the South because of the condition of the cotton market, but notwithstanding these adverse influences, which are believed but temporary, there has been a considerable movement, car loadings of general merchandise being in excess of a year ago. Building permits indicate some

falling off from last year, yet the building trades are still well employed and there is little or no surplus of labor unemployed. Both wholesale and retail coal markets continue active, but without any material change in prices.

The flour trade is unsettled. Some millers report trade fairly good, while others say it is dull. Economic conditions in different sections of the country appear to be responsible for the varying moods of buyers. The recent advance in wheat has, for the time being, put a stop to contracting for more than 30 to 60 days, the tendency being to hold off for developments. Millers report conditions in the South unsatisfactory. There has been, however, an increasing demand for corn goods. Collections, generally, are not so good as they have been of late.

BALTIMORE.—Trade reports continue to reflect a satisfactory situation in most lines. Manufacturing operations in many industries are close to capacity and record car loadings reveal no diminution in distribution. Consumption is larger than ever. Local steel mills are running at about 85 per cent. of capacity, despite the fact that seasonal buying shows a slight falling off. Operations of rolling mills and tube companies continue to hold up well, although the 1926 earnings may hardly be as large as last year. Continuation of the British coal strike still operates as a great stimulus to the local coal industry and coal-carrying railroads in this State report record earnings from this class of traffic. In the electrical line there is a good demand for industrial equipment, but in other departments there is less activity than last week. Cork and seal plants had a good third quarter and the outlook for the last three months of the year is promising. Costs have been reduced and net returns are more favorable than they were last year. Sheet metal and metal products factories are running about 70 per cent. of capacity and this compares favorably with the 1925 situation. Railway equipment houses report the business status to be below that of the fore part of the month. The carriers are now beginning to defer their purchases until after the advent of 1927. Manufacturers of enamelware are running on a 70 per cent. basis, about the seasonal normal. Paint manufacturers are running full time, but demand is mostly local, buyers elsewhere being reluctant to anticipate needs. The brush-producing industry reports business better last month than in October, 1925. Operations are 100 per cent. and outlook is favorable. Furniture plants are running somewhat under the schedule for 1925 period. Pharmaceutical houses are running full time and there is a good and steady demand, particularly from the East and South.

Food products and cereal distributing houses report business to be fair but orders from the South are disappointing. Wholesale paper and stationery houses are busy and it is expected that the 1926 volume will exceed by about 10 per cent. the sales total for last year. Wholesale distributors of jewelry say that October sales will surpass the figures for the corresponding 1925 month by 25 per cent. and outlook is favorable. Millinery line continues satisfactory. More seasonal temperatures are stimulating the retail clothing trade, although men's overcoat sales are below expectations. Wholesale distributors of tobacco products report a normal business for the season with satisfactory collections. Maryland leaf tobacco receipts for the week total 626 hogsheads against sales of 1,112 hogsheads, with no price changes. Housefurnishing establishments are doing a good business. There is also a satisfactory seasonal movement of carpets and rugs. Reports of mail-order houses and chain store systems reveal increased sales. Wholesalers of drugs and sundries are doing slightly better than in October last year. Distributors of groceries at wholesale are fairly busy. Poultry is plentiful and cheap. Some turkeys are arriving but there is little demand for them.

LOUISVILLE.—Crop estimates indicate a substantial increase of all principal crops in Kentucky. Recent weather conditions have been unfavorable, continued rains interfering with Fall planting and plowing. Fertilizer manufacturers have had a fair volume of business during recent months, however. In wagon manufacturing and implement lines a good deal of business is said to be held up on account of the low price of cotton. Mill supply business is somewhat slower than last year. Lumber trade has decreased in volume generally but is active in some places, and competition for orders is keen. There is a good demand for metal roofing and tanks. October sales in clothing have not reached the 1925 record, due mainly to warmer weather during the month as compared with last year.

MEMPHIS.—Despite conditions in the cotton market fair activity has prevailed in retail mercantile circles. Weather has been somewhat of a restraint in certain lines, but it has also been favorable to harvesting crops. The unusually large amount of feed and forage crops produced helps to offset the depressing influence of the oversupply of cotton, but the better grade of the latter compared with last season in this territory is helpful.

In groceries, feedstuffs and grain, as well as in other lines directly affected by the cotton situation, trade is quiet. In the rural sections the auto demand is limited, but continues fair in the cities. Used cars are in large supply and demand light. Lumber conditions are fairly satisfactory, with the market steady, as output is below the movement. Collections are slow, but supplies of funds are ample for all requirements and there is no difficulty in meeting demands for holding cotton; rates unchanged.

BIRMINGHAM.—Retail sales in Birmingham and vicinity are holding up well, representative department stores reporting an increase of from 5 to 10 per cent. for the nine and one-half months of 1926, although in some instances a slight decline in trade has recently been noted. Wholesale dry goods houses report no slackening in city sales, but local jobbers supplying the agricultural sections note a recent decrease of 5 to 20 per cent., due to the unfavorable condition of the cotton market and to a general tendency in rural sections to buy only for immediate needs. Wholesale hardware sales are reported normal for this season, although all jobbers of commodities report rather slow collections and in a number of quarters a tendency is shown to exercise more caution in the granting of credit.

Manufacturers of pipe and fittings report sales normal, with collections fair, and cast iron pipe manufacturers report a good volume of sale and satisfactory prospects. A seasonable increase in coal production is noted. Basic industries report production accelerated to virtual capacity by railroad buying. A continuation of the present favorable conditions in the immediate vicinity of Birmingham is predicted for the last quarter of 1926 by those in close touch with affairs.

NEW ORLEANS.—Wholesale dealers report a fairly active trade, though the volume is somewhat below expectations. Retail business is holding up fairly well. The cotton market has ruled steady and is fairly active in the face of the anticipated large yield, due to unfavorable weather conditions. Sugar has been strong, following storm news from Cuba, which is believed to have caused serious damage to the crops there. There is a fair movement of rice, the demand for export being good and prices are firm. Coffee shows increased activity, with quotations slightly higher. Building operations continue active and statistics covering this State for nine months of the year indicate a much larger amount of construction work than in former years. There has been no change in the price of building material and labor is well employed at satisfactory wages.

Money is in fair demand, with interest rates a shade higher. Collections are rather slow.

SHREVEPORT.—Wholesale and retail lines report business quieter than usual for this season of the year, and there is complaint of slowness in collections. This condition is attributed very largely to the continued decline in the price of cotton during the last six weeks. Shreveport building permits for the period ending September 30, 1926, were \$4,573,216, against \$4,504,303 for the same period last year. Shreveport bank clearings for the first nine months this year were \$204,178,251, against \$201,213,611 for the same time last year.

Western States

CHICAGO.—While surface indications are of a large volume of trade, there are signs in some wholesale lines like hardware, groceries and dry goods, that the market is becoming a buyers' affair. Reports indicate a recurrence of complaints of narrowing profits, while buyers are said to be more cautious in their commitments. Constructive features in the local situation, however, are not lacking. A substantial gain in building permits for the third successive month is assured, with permits for the first twenty-five days of October reaching \$33,722,800—a gain of over \$2,000,000 in comparison with the total for the entire month of October last year. Car loadings on the mid-western roads continue to surpass the loadings for the corresponding period of 1925, with the systems in the Northwest showing moderate increases, instead of lagging slightly as they did earlier in the year.

Current wholesale distribution of dry goods is reported at about the same volume as a year ago, with road sales showing a slight decrease, not quite so many customers in the field, and collections a little slower. Crisp weather has spurred the demand for Fall goods in the retail stores, but many other lines are now in the normal pre-Christmas rush breathing spell. The packing trade reports good business, with the demand for dressed beef and pork improving. The steel industry reports an improved rail demand and a disposition of purchasers in other lines to seek concessions. Money rates are unchanged. The livestock markets displayed irregularity during the early trading of the week. Nearly all grades of cattle with the exception of calves were 15 to 25 cents higher at the opening but part of the gains were cancelled Tuesday. Hogs sold 10 to 25 cents lower in the two days' trading. Packer hides were quiet and some buyer resistance to present prices appeared in the country stocks. Butter and eggs displayed a tendency to higher levels on the local produce exchange. Sharp weather slowed the movement of cement, sand, and other concrete materials to the jobs but spurred the domestic demand for coal, with the result that many retailers put on extra wagons. Wholesale prices were firm with an advance of 60 cents a ton expected for smokeless grades during November. Gasoline was cut a cent a gallon for all grades at the beginning of the week.

CINCINNATI.—The movement of seasonal commodities is broadening and in the main conditions are satisfactory. Shoe plants have a fair run of fill-in orders, both jobbers and retailers requiring some replenishment of stock and report that consumers are buying in excess of last year for the Fall season. Stocks of finished leather are short in supply and prices are strengthening. Buying of machine tools shows some decline but pending business still is of encouraging volume, with operating schedules unaffected. Electrical work and appliances are selling satisfactorily, and radio dealers and manufacturers anticipate a good season. Sales for October are a little behind those of the same month last year, when business opened somewhat earlier.

Few merchants visited the wholesale markets during the week, but road trade is fairly brisk and distribution of dry goods is seasonally active. Under the auspices of The Wholesale Merchants' Department of The Chamber of Commerce Holiday Buyers' Week will be observed from November 8th to 13th and inducements offered will attract numerous buyers to the market. Retail business is improving under the stimulus of cooler weather.

CLEVELAND.—Trade conditions during the past week are somewhat improved in retail branches, there being a brisk movement in practically all lines of Winter garments. The holiday trade is beginning to show activity, and there is fairly strong demand for furniture and household accessories. Jobbers and wholesalers report business at about normal. Lines that are running strong include shoes, groceries, drugs and leather goods. Hardware, dry goods and building materials are somewhat less active. Aside from a few large building operations under way there is an easing up in construction work, which is being pushed rapidly to head off bad weather. Industrial steel concerns are working steadily. Coal is fairly active and iron ore is being absorbed in goodly quantities by the blast furnaces, which are running at about three-quarters of capacity.

TOLEDO.—Lower temperature is assisting in the development of Fall trade, which has been inclined to be a little sluggish. Department stores report buying averaging in about the same amounts as last year, which necessitates a larger turnover, as prices on some goods are lower. Most wholesale houses report buying in just fair volume, with an inclination toward conservatism again apparent.

Radio factories are again quite busy. Farm implements have been moving better, despite adverse weather conditions. The sugar beet crop has been slow in developing, and muddy fields make harvesting difficult. Plumbing supplies are selling in fair volume only. Bank reports indicate a healthy condition and a very active turnover, with deposits far ahead of those of a year ago. The distribution of men's clothing has been better than that of a year ago, but some complaints are heard from retail stores relative to their stocks not moving. Car loadings continue heavy. Collections are fairly good.

DETROIT.—Fall buying has reached a reasonably good volume, although in some respects it has not come fully up to expectations. Changeable weather has had some restrictive influence on trade, and all lines have not moved as actively as might be. Essentials in wearing apparel, footwear, etc., have sold reasonably well, and prices, generally, are firm. In manufacturing quarters nearly all factories are active, although many are on a somewhat reduced schedule. This condition will likely prevail during the remainder of the year, with regular inventory operations to follow, resulting in a further slowing down of output, temporarily at least. Trade conditions, in general, may be characterized as spotty.

Road orders with wholesale and jobbing houses are fairly good, though retailers show no great desire to stock heavily for the future. Building and construction work, on the whole, is still active, over 2,900 new structures having been started during September, covering all classes of buildings. Weather conditions will soon lessen activities in this particular field.

Collections, in general, have been fair to good, and speculative operations are at a minimum.

MILWAUKEE.—Business seems to be moving along in the same satisfactory manner. Industrially, the situation is about as heretofore; if anything, an increase is noted, with a stronger demand for skilled labor. Conditions are rather alike in the city and in the larger towns; in the interior, favorable reports are had from shoe manufacturers, which

report an improved business over that of a year ago, various important units operating at capacity.

Reports also continue favorable in the metal trades and among auto manufacturers. The building industry continues without a let-up, permits being in excess of those of a year ago, and the weather has been favorable to outdoor activity.

The candy and confectionery line is doing well; in fact, as stated, industrial reports, with few exceptions, are good. Retail business is good, the large stores reporting a volume larger than that of a year ago.

A report from farm districts shows continued improvement, although in some sections a record crop is affecting prices of canned goods.

Reports on collections are better, and the general situation is regarded with confidence.

ST. PAUL.—Jobbers and manufacturers of men's furnishings, hats, caps and footwear report that commitments for seasonable wearing apparel were not placed in quantities earlier in the season, which has resulted in a large number of small mail orders at this time, although the season's business is not up to that of the same period last year. A slight increase is noted in demand for dry goods and notions, and a fair business is being done in clothing. Colder weather is needed to stimulate demand in these lines. Hardware sales are about 5 per cent. off, as compared with last year. In drugs, chemicals and oils there is a satisfactory demand. Collections are fair.

DULUTH.—As a whole, business is quiet in this section, the outstanding exception being the local steel mills, which are operating on an active basis. The expected speeding up after the harvest has been disappointing. Wholesale houses report a falling off in business from that of a year ago. Collections are only fair. There has been a considerable decrease in building activity from that of last year. In spite of somewhat unfavorable conditions, however, there have been an exceptionally small number of failures, and these have been, for the most part, establishments of small importance.

KANSAS CITY.—Some houses report a substantial volume of trade this month and with others it is fair, while collections, generally, are about normal. The implement trade has been very good, and while a few localities stress

(Continued on page 15)

Record of Week's Failures

THE number of failures in the United States this week is practically identical with that of last week, a total of 430 comparing with one of 431 in the earlier period. The current week's defaults, however, show a considerable increase over the 373 insolvencies reported a year ago. Both the West and the Pacific Coast report fewer failures this week than last week, notably the West, but these decreases are offset by increases in the East and in the South. Of the current week's defaults, 249 had liabilities of more than \$5,000 in each case, which compares with 252 similar insolvencies last week and 199 a year ago.

The number of failures in Canada this week increased to 49 from 33 last week. A year ago, however, 52 Canadian defaults were reported.

Section	Week Oct. 24, 1926		Week Oct. 21, 1926		Week Oct. 14, 1926		Week Oct. 29, 1925	
	Over \$5,000	Total	Over \$5,000	Total	Over \$5,000	Total	Over \$5,000	Total
East	94	145	92	131	62	108	73	114
South	79	131	63	114	45	93	45	87
West	48	93	69	118	66	117	58	100
Pacific	28	61	29	68	16	57	22	63
U. S.	249	430	252	431	190	375	199	373
Canada	21	49	14	33	27	52	23	52

FARM IMPLEMENT TRADE SURVEY

Gains Over Last Year's Volume in Many Instances—Recent Contraction is Shown

THE following survey of the agricultural implement trade is based on reports from branch offices of R. G. DUN & Co.:

PHILADELPHIA.—Although some irregularity in conditions has prevailed, the general tenor of reports from the agricultural implement trade is favorable. One house notes an increase of about 30 per cent. in business during the last two months, compared with that for the corresponding period of 1925, and advance orders also show a gain. Another concern states that there has been a comparatively recent increase of about 5 per cent. in sales. Where variations in prices have appeared, they have been small. Collections, in some instances, are a little slow, but the outlook for trade, both for the balance of this year and for 1927, is considered encouraging.

ST. LOUIS.—This is not a production center for agricultural implements, but is a distributing point. Reports indicate some irregularity in conditions, yet sales this year, in most cases, have either been on a par with, or in excess of, those for last year. Recently, some decrease in business has been noted, due to excessive rains and their adverse effect on crops and on Fall sowing. It is stated that farmers are disposed to fill their requirements if the crop situation should justify it, but conditions this Autumn have been unfavorable. The low price of cotton, moreover, has curtailed buying of implements in cotton territory, and is reported to have led to some cancellations of contracts. Prices for implements are practically unchanged, and no important fluctuations are expected.

BALTIMORE.—In this line, 1926 has not been very satisfactory. Current trade is hardly as good as that in October of last year, and the volume thus far this year shows practically no increase over the sales total for the corresponding 1925 period. Last Spring's trade was somewhat of a disappointment, and, except for some belated buying, business for the current year is pretty well over.

The sale of horticultural tools and parts was quite active, but field implements, with the possible exception of cultivators and harvesters, moved rather sluggishly. It is well known that farmers have been operating since 1920 with patched and revamped implements, and for some years they have been deferring the replacement of this wornout equipment. There was some evidence this year of such buying, it fell far short of expectations.

While some yields were substantially below normal, the general crop returns this year in this region will be favorable, and, in consequence, the purchasing power of the farmer will be increased. The depression in the cotton industry, however, is likely to have an important bearing upon local sales, inasmuch as many houses here sell extensively throughout the South. Local distributors are carrying about normal stocks and factory shipments are prompt, despite the fact that manufacturers are said to have curtailed production.

Prices have been unusually well stabilized this year, and current quotations are on a par with those obtaining in the Fall of 1925. The indications are that the price situation will undergo no disturbance in the near future. Not much activity is anticipated during the closing months of the year, but distributors are conservatively optimistic as to the outlook for next Spring. The impression seems to prevail that the farmer will then be in a better position to replenish his dilapidated equipment.

ATLANTA.—The agricultural implement trade in this section, both with manufacturers and distributors, is about on a par with that for the first nine months of 1925. While some distributors report a slight increase in volume, others

show a decrease. The year, as a whole, will probably fall below the 1925 record on account of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing, attributed to the low price of cotton, causing some cancellation of orders for future shipment. Collections, however, have held up fairly well. There has been no material change in prices from those of a year ago.

DALLAS.—Distributors of agricultural implements report sales this year a little under the volume of the same period in 1925. Marked activity was shown during the harvest periods, but buying is confined mainly to seasonal requirements. Prices remain steady. All crops have been the largest in the history of this section, but low prices of farm products curtail sales, which occasions a conservative attitude on the part of farmers. In most sections farmers have plenty of seed to launch another crop.

CANTON.—A survey of the agricultural implement trade indicates a substantial increase in sales for this year, as compared with those for last year. In some instances, the volume has been nearly double that which was reported two years ago. A tendency toward declining prices has appeared in certain lines, but in other cases the quotations remain about on a par with those of last year. The outlook is considered more encouraging than for a number of years, with stocks in a better position. Dealers and distributors seem to have unloaded their supplies, which is a favorable contrast to the large carryover reported in recent preceding years.

MINNEAPOLIS.—The wheat crop in this territory is less than that of last year, and not nearly equal to the yield that was expected early in the season. The demand for farm implements was strong during last Winter and early Spring, but there was quite a sharp reduction in sales during April, May and June. There has been a steady increase in demand during the last four months, and a reported increase of approximately 5 per cent. above that for the corresponding months of last year. Stocks are low throughout the Northwest, and dealers anticipate an improvement from now on. Prices are not much changed from the level of a year ago, and are steady at present. Collections in this line are reported good.

DENVER.—Distribution of agricultural implements, farm machinery, trucks, tractors, etc., in this territory has been measurably larger than in any year since 1921. Six of the leading distributors report gains in sales ranging from 15 to 100 per cent., the average being about 53 per cent. Gains are due, in part, to the fact that the farmers have been enabled to gradually clear up, during the past year or so, indebtedness incurred previously, and, to a great extent, to the unusually good crops being harvested, the yield of wheat and other cereals, as well as sugar beets, being the largest, in most sections of the State, in many years, with generally satisfactory or high prices prevailing.

Increases in sales have been general, although two leading concerns attribute a considerable part of their gains to increased demand for tractors and motor trucks. Generally speaking, prices remain steady, with no changes in evidence and none in sight, although in one instance where heavy tractors and deep soil-tilling machinery is sold mainly, a reduction in the price of tractors was made a few months ago, of about 10 per cent., due to the consolidation of two former competitors, and made possible by lower manufacturing costs and decrease in overhead.

SEATTLE.—An improvement in the general sales volume of agricultural implements is shown for the present year, compared with that of last year. The gain averages 20 per cent. There has been no price movement of consequence, and none is expected. A generally more prosperous condition among the farming public of the section accounts for the improvement in business. At present, there is a seasonal slackening in trade. Collections continue fairly prompt.

REDUCED OPERATIONS IN STEEL

Buying is Less Active, and Production Declines
at Certain Points—Pig Iron Firmer

THE steel market for some time has been largely determined by actual consumption and, in consequence, the recent reduction in buying has some bearing on output and shipments, with a let-down in production at certain points. In the Pittsburgh district, this has not become very noticeable, ingot capacity still running close to 85 per cent., but opinion generally is that operations will be under lessened pressure over the remainder of the year. The usual contracts for rails and miscellaneous transportation equipment are coming forward, but from diverse consuming interests current specifications show a loss, and even tin plate and pipe mills are catching up on orders.

Prices are a trifle spotty, with a firmer tendency in pig iron, due mainly to higher fuel costs in prospect. Soft coal prices have risen sharply and this situation is reflected in the coke market to some degree, the minimum for spot furnace coke advancing to \$4 per ton at oven, Connellsville district. Pig iron has advanced, and is now quotable at \$19.50 for Bessemer and \$18.50 for basic, Valley furnace. At Pittsburgh, scrap is somewhat steadier; for No. 1 grade heavy melting steel \$17.50 and \$18 is currently quoted, but at Chicago dullness has been noted, with no reaction from the low prices of around \$13.25, delivered.

Finished steel quotations average unchanged, and forward bookings are rather limited. Merchant steel bars are quoted at \$1.90 and \$2, Pittsburgh. Plates are quoted at \$1.90, Pittsburgh, and structural shapes at \$2, Pittsburgh. Fabricating shops still have a fair amount of work, though structural contracts over the past month or two show a falling off. Beams of lighter weight for ordinary building are being featured by several plants, and this department promises a considerable growth. Other finished steel descriptions remain practically unchanged at recent quotations.

Large Rail Orders at Chicago

CHICAGO.—Bookings of Chicago steel producers a week ago were the second heaviest of the year. Some 500,000 tons of rails have been ordered in the local district, and the rail mills are running on close to normal schedules. The mills of the leading interest resumed production on a reduced scale, following a shutdown for repairs, while that of a prominent independent is operating exclusively on rails, instead of alternating with structurals. The rail market has been comparatively quiet in the last week, however, with one inquiry out for 45,000 tons. Roads have shown a tendency to spread their orders over a longer period of delivery than was the case last year.

General demand is reported better here than in the East, although some of the large buyers have been holding out for price concessions. Finished steel sales and specifications for the month, it was predicted, will compare favorably with those for September. Between 12,000 and 14,000 tons of plates were booked in the last week, chiefly for tank work, and about 20,000 tons more are on inquiry.

Car buying continues disappointing, although reports persist that several more Western lines are about to enter the market. The most important recent award was for 1,000 gondolas.

Ruling prices in the local market at the beginning of the week were: pig iron, \$21; hard steel bars, \$2; soft steel bars, \$2.10, shapes and plates, \$2.10.

Steel Corporation's Large Earnings.—Earnings of the United States Steel Corporation for the third quarter of 1926 approximated \$5 per share of common stock, after allowing for the usual dividends on the preferred stock. For the first quarter, the corresponding rate of earnings was \$3.89 per share of common stock, and for the second quarter, \$4.20. The quarter's showing is the highest since the second quarter of 1918. The regular dividends of 1½ per cent. were declared on both the preferred and common stocks.

The total of earnings available for common stock dividends in the first, second and third quarters of 1925 was \$2.93, \$3.07 and \$3.44, respectively, or \$9.44 for the first nine months of last year, against \$13.09 for the same period this year, without allowance, of course, for appropriations and expenditures for additions and improvements

to plants. The surplus for the three quarters this year now amounts to \$39,832,768, compared with \$29,632,442 for all of 1925.

EARNINGS IN RECENT YEARS.

Quarters.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
First	\$45,061,285	\$39,882,992	\$50,075,445	\$34,780,069
Second	47,814,105	40,624,220	41,381,039	47,388,181
Third	52,626,826	42,400,419	30,718,415	47,053,680
Fourth		42,630,840	30,939,912	49,954,744

Largest Freight Traffic Reported.—All records as to the number of cars loaded with revenue freight for any one week were exceeded in the week ending October 16. The total for the week was 1,210,163 cars, the American Railway Association reported. This unprecedented freight traffic was handled without transportation difficulties and without car shortage, except in isolated cases of a temporary nature.

This was an increase of 23,152 cars over the previous high record in the week of September 18, when the total was 1,187,011 cars. It was an increase of 85,725 cars over the record week prior to this year, that ended August 20, 1925, when 1,124,438 cars were loaded. From January 1 to October 16—42 weeks—cars loaded with revenue freight totaled 42,832,438, the greatest number for any corresponding period on record.

Car loadings of freight for the week ended on October 16 compare as follows with those for recent weeks of this and previous years:

	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
October 16	1,210,163	1,106,114	1,102,336	1,073,095
October 9	1,184,862	1,106,046	1,088,956	1,085,938
October 2	1,185,524	1,113,283	1,077,748	1,079,776
September 25	1,182,940	1,121,025	1,087,954	1,060,436
September 18	1,187,011	1,000,427	1,076,847	1,097,493

Favorable Conditions at Montreal

MONTREAL.—Though retail trade has suffered to some extent from the late heavy rain, the generally favorable business conditions, as last noted, have not undergone any deterioration, and general collections are fairly well maintained. There is a continued inflow of numerous mail orders for immediate shipments of dry goods, indicating that stocks generally are not overfull. There is a marked inquiry for blankets, supplies of which are apparently in narrow compass. Among jobbers of woollens, there are still complaints of rather slow business. The increased production of boots and shoes is well maintained, and leather prices, more particularly for sole leather, show indications of growing firmness. With the advancing season there is some improvement in orders for furs, and business in this line is reported as being somewhat ahead of last year's at this date. Business in lumber is comparatively quiet, with complaints of much cutting of prices.

Money is in fair seasonable demand, with funds in ample supply. The general discount rate remains at from 6 to 6½ per cent. Trust and private funds are available on call at from 5 to 5½ per cent., though the general bank rate is still nominally 6 per cent.

Dun's Insolvency Index.—R. G. DUN & Co.'s Insolvency Index again shows an advance this week, which is not unusual at this season. While it is now slightly higher than it was a year ago, it continues to make a satisfactory comparison with that period and is considerably lower than for the five-year average covering the month of October. Proportioned to the number of firms in business, DUN's Insolvency Index for October to date was at a ratio of 95.5, whereas it was 90.5 at the same date a year ago. For the month of October, 1925, the index was 89.2, whereas the five-year average, 1921-25, inclusive, for that month was 103.8.

Cleveland Money Rates Stable

CLEVELAND.—The supply of money continues plentiful, and there is no important change in rates. Loans are well scattered throughout a diverse line of industry, and the demand is in normal proportion as between the industrial centers and the rural regions. Federal Reserve bank report shows a substantial increase in debits to individual accounts during the past week, the total also being in excess of that for the corresponding week a year ago. On the other hand, this district reports a slight falling off in the volume of Federal Reserve notes in circulation, as compared with the total for a week ago, but there is some increase in discount holdings.

MONEY SITUATION STILL EASIER

Call Loan Rate at $4\frac{1}{2}$ Per Cent. on Stock Exchange—Belgium's Currency Stabilized

THE money market was distinctly easy. A $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rate prevailed throughout the week for call loans, but in the outside market accommodations were available at 4 per cent. Withdrawals were light, and the demand was limited. Time money was quoted at 4% per cent., both for ninety days and for five and six months, and in many cases borrowers showed a tendency to hold off for lower rates. There was no change in the quotations on commercial paper, but the banks showed a tendency to buy more freely, influenced by the ease in time money. Wall Street discussion of the possibility of a reduction in the Federal Reserve rediscount rate became active during the week.

The establishment of a gold basis in Belgium, with the creation of a new parity for Belgian currency, furnished the principal feature of the week in the foreign exchange market. Backed by a \$100,000,000 public loan and by a credit in which the Federal Reserve Bank and the principal banks of issue of Europe participated, Belgium announced the stabilization of the franc at 278c., and the establishment of a new unit for international transactions, to be known as the belga. There was little other activity in foreign exchange. Sterling was quiet and rather soft, but remained fractionally above the gold shipping point. The Italian lira sold off rather sharply, apparently on selling from London. The Norwegian krone advanced to its previous high point, but reacted on profit-taking sales. The French franc was steady.

Daily closing quotations of foreign exchange (bankers' bills) in the New York market follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Sterling, checks...	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%
Sterling, cables...	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%	4.84%
Paris, checks...	3.02	3.06	3.06	3.03	3.10	3.16
Paris, cables...	3.02	3.07	3.07	3.04	3.11	3.16
Berlin, checks...	23.77	23.76	23.75	23.75	23.77	23.79
Berlin, cables...	23.79	23.78	23.77	23.77	23.78	23.79
Antwerp, checks...	2.80	2.78	13.90	13.91	13.89	13.90
Antwerp, cables...	2.81	2.79	13.91	13.92	13.91	13.91
Lire, checks...	4.34	4.47	4.44	4.28	4.38	4.36
Lire, cables...	4.35	4.48	4.45	4.29	4.38	4.36
Swiss, checks...	19.29	19.28	19.28	19.28	19.27	19.26
Swiss, cables...	19.30	19.29	19.29	19.29	19.29	19.29
Guilder, checks...	39.97	39.97	39.98	39.98	39.97	39.97
Guilder, cables...	39.99	39.99	39.98	39.98	39.99	39.99
Pesetas, checks...	15.10	15.14	15.08	15.10	15.09	15.11
Pesetas, cables...	15.12	15.16	15.10	15.12	15.11	15.13
Denmark, checks...	23.58	23.58	23.58	23.58	23.58	23.58
Denmark, cables...	26.60	26.60	26.60	26.60	26.60	26.60
Sweden, checks...	26.69	26.68	26.69	26.68	26.70	26.72
Sweden, cables...	26.73	26.72	26.73	26.72	26.72	26.72
Norway, checks...	25.02	24.88	24.98	24.94	24.93	24.93
Norway, cables...	25.00	24.92	25.02	24.98	24.95	24.95
Greece, checks...	1.18	1.20	1.21	1.20	1.21	1.21
Greece, cables...	1.19	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21
Portugal, checks...	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20
Portugal, cables...	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Montreal, demand...	100.07	100.08	100.12	100.12	100.12	100.12
Argentina, demand...	40.75	40.75	40.75	40.75	40.75	40.75
Brazil, demand...	14.05	13.75	12.70	13.75	13.68	13.68
Uruguay, demand...	99.75	99.50	99.70	99.50	99.75	99.62
Chili, demand...	12.09	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.12	12.12

* New unit for Belgian exchange.

Bank Clearings Slightly Smaller

BANK clearings continue slightly below those of a year ago, though consideration should still be given to the fact that at the last-mentioned period the clearings were exceptionally heavy. The total this week at all leading cities in the United States is \$8,867,513,000, a decrease of 2.2 per cent. from last year's. The loss continues at New York City, where clearings of \$5,291,000,000 show a decline of 4.7 per cent. Outside of New York, clearings this week aggregate \$3,576,513,000, a gain of 1.7 per cent. There are quite a number of cities reporting a smaller volume of bank clearings this week than a year ago, and the losses are quite marked at the South. Among the cities outside of New York showing declines are Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Omaha, Baltimore, Richmond, Atlanta, New Orleans and Dallas. Gains, however, appear this week

at Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Kansas City, and on the Pacific Coast.

	Week Oct. 28, 1925	Week Oct. 29, 1925	Per Cent.	Week Oct. 30, 1924
Boston	\$534,000,000	\$476,840,000	+22.5	\$404,155,000
Philadelphia	581,000,000	558,000,000	+4.5	493,600,000
Baltimore	93,236,000	95,492,000	-2.4	79,040,000
Pittsburgh	186,164,000	177,258,000	+5.0	150,632,000
Buffalo	48,195,000	57,090,000	-15.5	46,304,000
Chicago	606,207,000	638,874,000	-5.1	580,977,000
Detroit	179,313,000	166,555,000	+7.7	131,431,000
Cleveland	115,216,000	119,022,000	-3.2	98,580,000
Cincinnati	71,402,000	71,969,000	-0.5	60,636,000
St. Louis	137,000,000	149,000,000	-8.1	143,100,000
Kansas City	156,200,000	134,300,000	+16.3	136,370,000
Omaha	40,809,000	41,276,000	-1.1	41,400,000
Minneapolis	57,171,000	58,798,000	-1.8	113,026,000
Richmond	54,337,000	61,595,000	-11.7	64,968,000
Atlanta	56,270,000	52,047,000	-31.4	63,671,000
Louisville	30,735,000	30,109,000	+2.1	30,035,000
New Orleans	63,808,000	62,190,000	-2.4	64,650,000
Dallas	52,267,000	59,422,000	-11.9	55,373,000
San Francisco	180,500,000	207,400,000	-12.9	172,700,000
Los Angeles	163,737,000	150,788,000	+8.6	122,200,000
Portland	44,035,000	42,835,000	+2.8	37,311,000
Seattle	44,551,000	43,051,000	+3.1	38,375,000
Total	\$3,576,513,000	\$3,515,891,000	+1.7	\$3,107,916,000
New York	5,291,000,000	5,551,000,000	-4.7	4,528,000,000
Total All	\$8,867,513,000	\$9,066,891,000	-2.2	\$7,635,916,000
Average Daily				
Oct. to date	\$1,547,461,000	\$1,573,400,000	-1.6	\$1,338,601,000
September	1,429,753,000	1,461,160,000	-2.1	1,294,528,000
August	1,391,779,000	1,315,361,000	+5.8	1,277,918,000
July	1,466,130,000	1,499,652,000	-0.8	1,322,272,000
2d Quarter	1,542,924,000	1,481,156,000	+4.2	1,289,120,000
1st Quarter	1,616,342,000	1,529,843,000	+7.6	1,203,460,000

Silver Movement and Prices.—

British exports of silver bullion for this year up to October 13, according to Messrs. Pixley & Abell, of London, were £5,820,171, of which £5,491,246 went to India and £328,925 to China. For the corresponding period of 1925 exports were £4,383,400, of which £3,698,850 went to India and £684,550 to China. Daily prices (per ounce) of bar silver in the London and New York markets during the current week follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
London, pence...	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
New York, cents...	62%	52%	53%	53%	52%	53%

Money Conditions Elsewhere

BOSTON.—Loans and discounts of the Boston banks for the latest reported week amounted to \$1,068,530,000, an increase from the week previous of \$1,172,000. Deposits amounted to \$1,118,976,000, having increased during the week \$26,403,000. Bank clearings reached a new high level for the week. The Federal Reserve ratio increased from 77.2 to 83.2 per cent. Reserves showed an increase and, although the other assets decreased, this was more than offset by a reduction of the Federal Reserve notes in circulation and in deposit liabilities. Call money is 5 per cent., commercial paper $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Customers' loans are $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent., and year-money is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

ST. LOUIS.—Business conditions have in a measure curtailed the demand for funds from commercial and industrial sources. Smaller inventories and ultra conservatism on the part of both wholesalers and retailers are the contributing factor to this condition. Current rates are $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for commercial paper; collateral loans 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ and over-the-counter loans from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. No change has been made in rates since last week.

CHICAGO.—Money is steady, with no change in rates. The commercial paper market is described as moderately active, with only a small amount of paper in the local market. Quotations on commercial paper are $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; over the counter loans, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; loans on collateral, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

CINCINNATI.—Money conditions continue to be relatively easy, and funds are in ample supply for current demand. Rates are steady, and continue of rule at $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. for practically all classes of accommodations.

MINNEAPOLIS.—Bank deposits are holding up well, and ample funds are available for legitimate business enterprises. There was a good demand for money during the week. Rates for industrial and commercial loans continue at 5 to 6 per cent., while commercial paper is quoted at $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The total reserve of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis decreased about \$1,438,000 and discounts increased \$2,475,000.

KANSAS CITY.—Banks report a slightly increased demand for money, loans still made at 5 to 6 per cent., with funds plentiful. Clearings through the local association so far this month are about 9 per cent larger than those for the corresponding period last year. Bills discounted last week by the Federal Reserve Bank showed an increase of some \$2,500,000 over those for the preceding week. Deposits and note circulation were somewhat heavier.

HIDE MARKET CONDITIONS EASY

Reductions of $\frac{1}{2}$ c. on Packer Stock Reported
—Other Varieties also Less Firm

THE easier trend that was noticeable a week ago in packer hides developed into sales this week at a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ c. for heavy and light Texas and Colorado steers. Butt brands have held at $15\frac{1}{2}$ c. Around 100,000 hides sold at 15c. for heavy Texas, 14c. for lights, $14\frac{1}{2}$ c. for Colorados, $13\frac{1}{2}$ c. for branded cows and 16c. for native steers. In general, the branded end, despite some declines, is steadier than native stock. While some good-sized quantities of native steers sold at 16c., the trading did not clean up the offerings, whereas branded steers and cows are well sold up. All-weight native cows show weakness, and buyers' ideas are about $\frac{1}{2}$ c. under last prices of 15c. for heavies and $14\frac{1}{2}$ c. for lights. Some native bulls sold at $10\frac{3}{4}$ c., which is $\frac{1}{4}$ c. decline.

Country hides have been topsey for a fortnight, and are slow and lower. Sales have been made of 25 to 45-pound extremes at $14\frac{1}{2}$ c., while buffs, in a regular way, are not over $11\frac{1}{2}$ c., although some free-of-grubs were claimed moved at $11\frac{1}{4}$ c.

In the foreign markets, frigorifico River Plate steers last sold at the equivalent of $17\frac{1}{2}$ c., c. & f. sight credit basis, per pound, but there is talk of that market being easier. Common varieties of Latin-American dry hides also look easier, and buyers are talking down on these from last sales.

Calfskins continue to be reported well sold up in New York cities, but, while some collectors are asking advances and have even reported sales at some increase, including some 5 to 7-pound weights at \$1.75, two other dealers each sold about two cars of this weight down to \$1.60, which would indicate an easier market on the light end. Middle-weights, 7 to 9 pounds, drag at around \$2, although more is asked; but 9 to 12's have held well at around \$2.70. Some talk extreme advances for these. Kips are unaltered. In the West, easiness continues to rule. Buyers talk at least $\frac{1}{2}$ c. lower than offerings of packers at $19\frac{1}{2}$ c. and Chicago cities at 18c. Last sales of the latter were special 10 to 15-pound weights at 18c. On regular weights, buyers are variously talking from 17c. to $17\frac{1}{2}$ c., and there is some suspicion that sales may have been quietly made at under 18c. Kips are also slower in the West, with packer natives offered at $19\frac{1}{2}$ c. Best bids are 19c. Chicago cities last brought 18c., and are nominal at that figure. Packer over-weights sold at $17\frac{1}{2}$ c. for northerns and 17c. for southern, and branded at $15\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Canadian Leather Situation Improves

REPORTS from Canada concerning sole leather are to the effect that, as in the case in the United States, considerable improvement is noted. There is a good demand for mediumweight sole leather, and extra heavy weights are selling freely to the findings trades. Offal leather prices have risen, the same as in the States, which is not surprising. The Canadian and United States markets are practically identical, and the scarcity of offal in all important domestic markets naturally drives buyers here into the Canadian markets, as well as into other foreign centers. In fact, considerable quantities of imported English tanned bellies and shoulders are eagerly sought after, and prices are advancing on successive sales. Canadian bellies are in brisk call, especially for prompt shipment. There are reports current that so scarce are offal holdings that tanners are in the market for stock to help them out in deliveries, and some big tanning-shoe manufacturers are scouring the market for supplies.

Black calf leather is popular in the Canadian market for men's shoes, with a moderate demand for tans. Unlike

domestic conditions, increasing quantities of grain calf are said to be selling in Canadian territory for women's work, although there is also a rapidly expanding demand there for suedes, with colored suede skins showing improvement, as well. There is not a very heavy call for Canadian glazed kid, which is in line with conditions throughout the United States. Like domestic conditions, linings constitute the great bulk of the sales of goat leathers. The call for black kid for women's shoes is best for the top and the low grades.

Sole Leather Market Strong

DECIDED strength rules in the sole leather market, with offal of all descriptions showing a rapidly advancing tendency, owing to an acute shortage. Business in New York suffers somewhat in many lines because of a restricted demand from Brooklyn shoe manufacturers, but activity is reported in Rochester, Buffalo and at other points, particularly with concerns producing women's welts. A satisfactory shoe business is also noted in Pennsylvania and in the Middle West.

Trade in sole leather is rather more active. Slightly lessened trading here and in and around Boston is more than made up by trade in other sections. Prices are strong at 43c. for union trim standard tannage light backs, tannery run, and at 45c. for similar tannage oak, with some special tannages of the latter bringing up to 47c. Philadelphia tanners are listing advances of at least 2c. on oak bends, and are advising cut sole branches to govern themselves accordingly. Finders' oak bends are stronger, with more business in this department.

There is pronounced strength in the offal market for all leading descriptions. Large tanners are higher in their prices for some of the leading lines, and there are instances of further advances secured. The shortage of supplies is very acute, and holdings are so closely sold up that buyers are substituting cheaper material, such as coarse and branded stock, for welting purposes.

Upper leathers are not in the favorable position occupied by bottom stock. Some Eastern reports state that women's weights of grain calf in light colors are receiving some attention from shoe manufacturers, but generally these lines are quiet. Patent leather continues to sell well, but has slowed down appreciably in New York. There are continued reports of price competition on side upper, with tanners underselling others moving considerable stock in the East and throughout Pennsylvania and the Middle West.

Footwear Trade Conditions Favorable.—Reports from most footwear manufacturing centers are satisfactory. Producers of women's welts in Rochester, Buffalo and in the Middle West, also throughout many sections of Pennsylvania, are busy, as is attested by the exceptional demand that prevails for welting and the scarcity of certain lines of offal wanted by these producers as a material. Brooklyn plants are inactive, with limited cutting now going on. Boston reports smaller sales of women's shoes, with activity curtailed in such centers as Lynn and Haverhill. Demand still runs largely to blacks, but some new samples for Spring trade are being made up in light colors. Present cutting runs chiefly to patent.

Los Angeles Implement Trade

LOS ANGELES.—Reports from the agricultural implement trade indicate large gains in sales for the first nine months of this year, as compared with those for the corresponding period of 1925. In several instances the increases are estimated at 40 to 45 per cent. No changes in prices are noted, while collections have been fairly prompt. The future prospects are regarded as favorable, with sufficient supplies available to meet demands, which are good. No fluctuations in prices are expected.

DRY GOODS DISTRIBUTION LARGE

Trade in Wholesale and Retail Channels is Full—Raw Materials Unsettled

DRY goods distribution in wholesale and retail channels continues full, and the demand for replacements is steady. In some divisions, notably in cottons, anticipations for Spring are still slow, being affected somewhat by the raw cotton situation, while in others, notably in dress goods, cloakings, and silks, Spring business is broadening. Prices remain somewhat unsettled in raw materials and yarns in some parts of the markets, particularly those affected by silk, cotton and jute.

Textile production is large and bids fair to hold well to the end of the year, at least. In cotton goods centers, low-cost raw materials has been a stimulating influence, from the fact that inventories for equal yardages will be much lower than was the case a year ago, and less apprehension is felt concerning the upbuilding of warehouse stocks if that becomes necessary.

So far as the most reliable reports show, the consumption of dry goods continues large. Constant small repeat orders come forward on most of the staple goods, and it is declared that inventories in many wholesale houses are exceptionally clean. There is apparently less demand for the extremes in styles, and it is still hard to merchandise many of the novelties that are in stock in some fabric houses.

The very large cotton yield is having a far-reaching effect in textiles, and is blamed for the substantial decline that has occurred in raw silk in the last two weeks. It is also leading some of the large woolen and burlap factors to refrain from trying to lift prices, although sales of some specialties have been active enough to warrant an upward revision of lists. The downward trend of jute has not yet made as great progress as burlap traders have been looking for, and they are not ready now to buy for late shipments.

Easing Prices on Cloths

PRINT cloths have been sold for delivery in the first quarter of next year at easier prices than those prevailing a week ago, and a third lower than those of a year ago. Convertibles have been in moderate demand, with prices somewhat unsettled, owing to the government report on cotton. Printed goods are being bought steadily in small lots. Bleached cottons are quieter. Unbranded sheets and pillow cases are easier. Colored cottons hold barely steady. The movement of goods on past orders continues large. Wash goods of a staple character have sold moderately for Spring, but business on fancies for advance delivery is still light. Heavy goods are being bought at low prices for long-term contract delivery.

The drop in raw silk has been very steady, and prices are down from 5 to 7½ per cent. from the top of the year. Buying is moderate. Silk goods for Spring are now receiving more attention, and are becoming more active. Crepes continue to lead most sales.

The new lines of worsted dress goods and coatings being offered are being sold well, buyers being especially interested in the fancies of a woven description and less garish colorings. In the garment trades, there is still a great deal of rush work in hand, but the buying is less eager and prices have been modified. Spring clothiers report a good business. Mills continue very well occupied.

Revisions in prices for heavy and lightweight knit cotton underwear are being forced by the drop in yarns and cotton, and many of the leading manufacturers have decided to give jobbers a rebate on unsold stocks in hand December 31, based on new 1927 prices to be made later. This unusual action has been taken to meet the severe decline in cotton prices.

December Floor Covering Openings

NEW price lists will be issued on axminster carpets and rugs and on many of the hard-surface floor coverings about December 1, according to announcements made this week. Linoleum and felt base manufacturers will price their new lines at that time, and five of the large carpet and rug houses that did not follow the openings early this month will also act then.

There is much discussion in the floor covering trade of a probable upward revision in prices on January 1, after the December openings have continued for a time. It seems to be accepted that wilton rug prices will remain unchanged, and that no marked change will be seen on axminsters and velvets yet to be shown for a new season. Carpet wools hold high in price.

The latest government report shows that twenty-six establishments are engaged in the manufacture of linoleums, felt base rugs, and heavy oilcloths. Of these, twelve are in New Jersey and four in Pennsylvania. There are but six concerns primarily engaged in linoleum production, eleven making felt base goods and nine oilcloth.

Reorganizing the Textile Trades

THE textile trades of the country are being reorganized on a co-operative basis very rapidly. The Wool Council is already functioning. It designs to establish research and statistical bureaus, and to keep the trade informed of new possibilities in production and distribution. The Cotton Textile Institute was formally organized this week in New York, 21,000,000 out of a possible 28,000,000 spindles being signed up. The main purpose is to establish research and statistical bureaus, and disseminate information co-operatively for the guidance of manufacturers. Later, it is proposed to take in jobbers, converters, sale yarn spinners, and merchants.

The silk trade has been served by bureaus established by the Silk Association of America. Definite information is supplied as to raw silk conditions in foreign markets, the volume of production, and other things on which merchants and manufacturers may predicate their activities.

In England, similar co-operative reorganizations are under way, but it is permissible there to fix prices. This week, cables announced that yarns were advanced one farthing a pound, by order of one of the large organizations just formed to stabilize the yarn markets.

The new movements are being supported at present by the manufacturers, but merchants are also taking an active interest in the proceedings. It is not intended to usurp the functions of many trade organizations already existing, but to assist them by supplying more accurate information concerning the industries, as a whole.

Notes of Textile Markets

Some grades of raw silk are down 50c. a pound, compared with the high prices current a month or more ago, the decline being hastened by the low prices asked for raw cotton.

Sales of print cloths at Fall River were under 100,000 pieces last week. Production in that center continues higher, being helped greatly by lower cotton. In the local markets, sales of print cloths for contract and spot delivery last week ran ahead of production.

The monthly statement of percentages of normal average capacity operated in the finishing industry in September showed substantial gains over the figures for August, and was as follows: White goods, 66 per cent.; dyed, 67 per cent.; fast black, 41 per cent.; logwood black, 31 per cent.; printed goods, 83 per cent.

It is expected that there will be a revision of prices on many cotton goods during the coming month, following the sustained drop in cotton. The new lists will be issued when jobbers are prepared to go into making Spring commitments.

Shipments of cotton goods during the first fifteen days of October exceeded production by 10 per cent.; stock on hand declined 30 per cent.; unfilled orders reached 309,823,000 yards, but 8.6 per cent. down from the total for October 1, while sales for the two weeks showed 87,044,000 yards, or 83 per cent. of the output.

STOCK MARKET TURNS STRONGER

Prices Respond to Favorable Earnings Statements and Other Constructive Factors

FAVORABLE earnings reports by several of the nation's largest corporations, increased dividends in a number of cases, a record volume of freight car loadings, and an abundance of money at comparatively low rates combined to cause a spirited upward movement in the stock market this week. Both railroad and industrial shares participated in the strength, and advances ranging from 1 to 10 points were scored throughout the list. One of the outstanding events of the week was an increase in the dividend rate on the Pennsylvania Railroad's 10,000,000 common shares from 6 to 7 per cent., which is the highest rate of return since 1907. The road this year is establishing an earning power calculated at 16 or 17 per cent. Other dividend actions included a \$3 extra in place of the usual \$1 extra by the Norfolk and Western, the declaration of the first dividend in ten years by the Butterick Company, consisting of 2 per cent. in cash and 8 per cent. in stock, and extras by Loew's and U. S. Hoffman Machinery.

Wall Street was particularly impressed with the earnings statements of United States Steel and General Motors, which disclosed unusual prosperity of these two great corporations in the third quarter and in the first nine months of this year. For the third quarter of this year, Steel reported net earnings of \$52,626,826, a peace-time record for the corporation, which was equivalent to \$4.99 a share on the common stock. General Motors and subsidiary companies earned \$149,317,553 in the first nine months of this year, which established a new high record and compared with \$80,921,018 in the corresponding period of last year.

The market leadership rested mostly with Pennsylvania Railroad, whose stock moved up 4 points to above 57; General Motors, which advanced 6 points to 152½, and United States Steel, which scored a net gain of 5 points to 142. Coal stocks were generally strong, as were a number of the department store issues. Some of the independent steels, including Gulf States, Ludlum and Replogle, ranged lower on the week, and the same was true of Hudson Motors, Mack Trucks and some of the other independent motors.

The bond market was strong, influenced mainly by the rather remarkable reception given the new \$50,000,000 Belgian issue, floated here as part of an international stabilization loan of \$100,000,000.

The daily average closing quotations of sixty railway, ten industrial and five traction and gas stocks are appended:

	Last Year	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
R. R.....	88.19	95.22	95.14	95.43	96.35	96.18	96.02
Ind.....	115.05	117.36	117.07	117.22	118.38	117.95	118.18
G. & T.....	99.02	107.97	107.77	108.32	108.95	108.20	108.42

Daily transactions in stocks and bonds on the New York Stock Exchange compare with last year as follows:

Week Ending Oct. 29, 1926	Stocks		Bonds	
	This Week.	Last Year.	This Week.	Last Year.
Saturday	767,200	1,381,400	\$6,796,000	\$8,523,000
Monday	993,700	2,307,000	6,019,000	17,429,000
Tuesday	1,194,300	2,489,300	11,221,000	17,851,000
Wednesday	1,545,300	2,302,100	14,876,000	17,036,000
Thursday	1,759,200	2,678,400	15,511,000	9,891,000
Friday	1,150,000	2,400,700	14,134,000	10,065,000
Total	7,409,700	13,458,900	\$68,557,000	\$61,995,000

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Messenger"

COTTON MARKET IS STRONGER WHEAT PRICES UNDER PRESSURE

More Resistance to Selling, Despite Very Bearish Government Crop Report

THE fluctuation of cotton prices this week was more restricted than in recent preceding weeks, with daily net changes comparatively small. This was not surprising, in view of the rapidity and extent of the previous decline. It has been known for some time that the season's crop is a big one, and an official report issued this week makes it clear that the harvest will be record breaking. It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 17,454,000 bales, which is 827,000 bales above the calculation made for October 1. A table printed at the foot of this column shows the gains over the crops of some other years. Although Monday's official forecast exceeded the expectations of the trade, as has been the case with a number of such estimates this year, there was a decline in the option list of only about \$1.50 a bale, and a rally quickly followed. The effect of the crop report was neutralized by the Census Bureau's ginning statement, showing only 8,722,066 bales to October 17. This is nearly 800,000 bales less than the amount reported for the same period of last year. Details of the ginning returns are given in another column. Such selling as developed in the speculative market this week met with a good deal of resistance, and Thursday's closing quotations averaged about unchanged from the final prices on the preceding Saturday. The demand from trade interests was something of a feature, while exports increased and are substantially in excess of last year's for the season to date.

Daily closing quotations (cents per pound) of cotton futures in the New York market follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Dec.	12.38	12.35	12.20	12.19	12.30	12.40
Jan.	12.43	12.46	12.31	12.27	12.30	12.48
March	12.67	12.70	12.56	12.54	12.70	12.73
May	12.84	12.96	12.80	12.77	12.88	12.99
July	13.05	13.17	13.03	13.01	13.12	13.19

SPOT COTTON PRICES

	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
	Oct. 22	Oct. 23	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 27	Oct. 29
New Orleans, cents....	12.20	12.30	12.37	12.18	12.18	12.27
New York, cents.....	12.55	12.60	12.60	12.45	12.45	12.55
Savannah, cents.....	11.78	11.89	11.91	11.75	11.81	11.90
Galveston, cents.....	12.35	12.40	12.45	12.30	12.30	12.40
Memphis, cents.....	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.25	12.25
Norfolk, cents.....	11.88	12.00	12.06	11.94	11.94	12.19
Augusta, cents.....	11.69	11.75	11.81	11.60	11.69	11.81
Houston, cents.....	12.30	12.35	12.25	12.20	12.20	12.30
Little Rock, cents.....	11.90	12.00	12.00	11.90	11.90	11.90
St. Louis, cents.....	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
Dallas, cents.....	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.20	11.20	11.30
Philadelphia, cents....	12.80	12.80	12.85	12.95	12.70	12.70

Record Cotton Crop Reported.—A cotton crop larger than ever before grown has been produced in the South this year. The Department of Agriculture this week placed the indicated production at 17,454,000 bales of 500-pound gross weight, or about 8,343,000,000 pounds of lint cotton. This is about 643,000,000 pounds of lint more than produced last year.

The estimate was based on conditions as of October 18. There was an increase of 827,000 bales in prospective production between October 1, when the last estimate was made, and October 18.

This year's record production was brought about by the planting of the largest acreage ever known and favorable growing conditions generally throughout the season. There was a smaller early-season abandonment than in previous years, and weather and insect conditions were better than usual.

The forecast of yield, as given out by the Department of Agriculture in each of its reports this year, compared with the corresponding reports of preceding years and with the final reports of 1925, 1924 and 1923, is as follows (figures being in thousands of bales):

	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.
July 1.....	15,625	14,339	12,144	11,412
July 16.....	15,368	13,588	11,934	.....
August 1.....	15,631	13,566	12,351	11,516
August 16.....	15,248	13,900	12,956	.....
September 1.....	15,166	13,740	12,787	10,798
September 16.....	15,810	13,931	12,596	.....
October 1.....	16,627	14,759	12,499	11,015
October 18.....	17,454	15,226	12,675	.....
Final .....	.....	16,103	13,627	10,189

Tendency Toward Easing in Early Trading, but Firmer Undertone Later Develops

THE Chicago grain market, after its strength of late last week, showed a tendency toward easing on both Monday and Tuesday of this week. Selling credited to a local operator brought a sharp setback in wheat during the opening trading, and this was followed by fractional declines the next day. News was not particularly bearish, but the speculative element showed little interest for the time being. Export business was reported small, due chiefly to the lack of available shipping tonnage. Toward mid-week, the market was depressed for a time by Liverpool selling, but subsequently rallied.

Corn and oats gave a little better account of themselves than the major cereal, prices holding steady, to declines of a minor fraction. Country offerings of corn were extremely light, while Western weather was more favorable to the drying out of the new crop. In oats, light offerings combined with a moderate demand to hold prices in a narrow range. Rye showed weakness, despite a tendency of traders to view the reports of uncertain potato crops in Poland, Germany and Hungary as a bullish factor.

Daily closing quotations of wheat options in the Chicago market follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Dec.	1.44 1/2	1.43	1.42 1/2	1.43	1.42 1/2	1.42 1/2
May	1.48 1/2	1.48	1.47 1/2	1.47 1/2	1.47 1/2	1.47 1/2

Daily closing quotations of corn options in the Chicago market follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Dec.	77 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2	76 3/4	75 3/4
May	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	85 1/2	84 1/2	83 1/2

Daily closing quotations of oats options in the Chicago market follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Dec.	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2	44	44	43 1/2
May	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	47 1/2

Daily closing quotations of rye options in the Chicago market follow:

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Dec.	102 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	99 1/2
May	108 1/2	108	106 1/2	106 1/2	107	106 1/2

The grain movement each day is given in the following table, with the week's total, and comparative figures for last year:

	Wheat		Flour.	Corn	
	Western Receipts.	Atlantic Exports.	Atlantic Exports.	Western Receipts.	Atlantic Exports.
Friday	1,427,000	168,000	24,000	1,261,000	.....
Saturday	1,390,000	221,000	8,000	1,113,000	.....
Monday	1,852,000	892,000	22,000	1,587,000	.....
Tuesday	1,395,000	873,000	29,000	1,545,000	.....
Wednesday	1,362,000	410,000	54,000	1,842,000	.....
Thursday	1,296,000	350,000	7,000	1,458,000	40,000
Total	8,892,000	3,014,000	154,000	8,806,000	40,000
Last year....	6,837,000	2,611,000	193,000	3,280,000	125,000

Cotton Ginning Relatively Small.—Cotton of this year's crop ginned prior to October 18 amounted to 8,722,066 running bales, including 258,199 round bales, counted as half bales, and excluding linters, the Census Bureau announced this week.

Ginning returns to October 18 by States compare as follows with the figures for October 1 and with October 18, 1925:

	Oct. 18, 1926.	Oct. 1, 1925.	Oct. 18, 1925.
Alabama	903,688	565,824	1,064,116
Arizona	37,098	24,233	31,206
Arkansas	738,904	435,450	703,115
California	42,036	19,138	17,307
Florida	21,973	17,426	35,959
Georgia	919,520	602,161	1,051,058
Louisiana	512,609	360,036	683,292
Mississippi	1,036,392	671,007	1,182,435
Missouri	78,135	36,814	72,983
New Mexico	12,773	3,408	16,536
North Carolina	497,101	240,190	711,268
Oklahoma	335,426	178,301	550,996
South Carolina	544,986	359,064	731,187
Tennessee	183,733	74,107	234,742
Texas	2,844,331	2,048,705	2,405,881
Virginia	9,686	2,252	21,752
All other States	3,725	1,168	5,113
Total United States....	8,722,066	5,639,284	9,518,946

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

(Continued from page 7)

future crop prospects, it is the opinion that in the major part of the territory a satisfactory volume of business is assured for the coming season. Grocery distribution this month has been at a good rate. Current dry goods business is fully maintained, with seasonable lines moving normally. Coal and oil has been slow but the season is not yet advanced enough to state definitely the future trend. Prices in all divisions of the livestock market are firm. Aggregate receipts were 170,000 head, compared to 182,000 for the previous week. Flour trade is improved slightly and mills are more active than for the previous week, operating at 90 per cent. capacity.

Pacific States

LOS ANGELES.—Both wholesale and retail merchants, for the most part, report business increasing, although some dealers in cotton goods report a lull and purchases for future needs are being withheld to some extent, due to the decline in prices. Local knitting concerns are experiencing a good demand for Spring merchandise, and future orders for bathing suits and kindred sport wear are well in excess of those of last year.

Dealers in office supplies and stationery find the demand for their merchandise in excess of that for the corresponding period of last year.

The retail drug situation has shown some improvement, due to fewer new establishments opening up. However, the general volume is considered only fair in the outlying sections.

PORTLAND.—The weather continues favorable for Fall movement of retail merchandise and the turnover is fairly good. Jobbing business is also making a satisfactory showing in staple lines. Building operations continue unhampered and large projects announced indicate an active period of construction in the Spring. Lumber buying has taken another spurt, with the demand particularly good from territory served by all rail shipments. Orders from domestic ports also show a good increase. Production by West Coast mills in the past week was about normal at 114,162,131 feet. Since the beginning of the year the mills have cut 4,370,665,518 feet, the largest total for that period in the past four years, and have booked orders for 4,495,776,561 feet. New business in the past week totaled

110,786,678 feet. Orders for rail delivery were 51,243,280 feet; domestic cargo business amounted to 39,485,246 feet; export orders 14,616,543 feet, and the local trade 5,441,009 feet. Shipments during the week were 94,009,607 feet. The unshipped balance aggregates 383,971,607 feet, an increase of 28,844,011 feet for the week.

The wheat market is passing through one of the most active periods known in years. Farmers find prices attractive and are selling freely, while exporters are doing a heavy business with Europe in spite of steadily rising freight rates. Since the beginning of the crop year, 33,516,000 bushels have reached North Pacific Coast markets, well over half of the exportable surplus of the Pacific Northwest. The flour movement is of moderate proportions. The apple export season has made a good start. Shipments for the season to date are about 250,000 boxes, as against 75,000 boxes shipped to this date last year. Those now being loaded will be delivered in time for the holiday trade in Europe. Dried prunes are also active, though prices are unsatisfactory to growers. Sales to date are estimated at about 50,000,000 pounds, three-fourths of the business being for export account. Growers and packers have about 20,000,000 pounds unsold. Wool is steadily passing out of first hands, sales at storage houses during the week were nearly 300,000 pounds. Wool is being promptly despatched to eastern buyers. Prices show a moderate advance since the Summer.

SEATTLE.—A total of 1,273 cars of apples moved from the principal producing districts of northwestern Washington during the week ended October 15. The total is 249 cars less than that for the previous week. Compilations of the shipments are made in Seattle by rail line headquarters. A loss of more than 3,000,000 bushels of apples, due to early frost and wind, is shown by Federal surveys in Washington. The total crop is officially placed at 25,410,000 bushels.

So far this year, Seattle's building construction totals \$27,061,000, compared with \$26,404,000 for the like period of 1925. October's record will not equal the totals of months previous, unless unusual activity develops in the last few days. Rainy weather has forced a slowing down of work. Local employment conditions are expected to be more favorable this Winter than last, because of four construction projects which will make demands for labor. They include the Chelan hydro-electric plant, Kittitas irrigation work, Great Northern tunnel, and Skagit River railway extension.

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It is reported that the London Port Authority has signed contracts for dock and other harbor improvements which will involve the expenditure of more than £4,000,000.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC
& MANUFACTURING COMPANY

A Dividend of 2% (\$1.00 per share) on the COMMON STOCK of this Company, for the quarter ending September 30, 1926, will be paid October 30, 1926, to stockholders of record as of September 30, 1926.
H. F. BAETZ, Treasurer.
New York, September 18, 1926.

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Kingdom of Belgium Stabilization Loan, 1926

\$50,000,000

EXTERNAL SINKING FUND 7% GOLD BONDS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ISSUE

To be dated November 1, 1926

Interest payable May 1 and November 1.

To mature November 1, 1936

NOT REDEEMABLE BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 1936, EXCEPT FOR THE SINKING FUND.

A cumulative Sinking Fund 1% per annum, commencing August 1, 1928, is to be applied to the purchase of Bonds, if obtainable at or below 105% and accrued interest, or, if not so obtainable, to the redemption on November 1, 1928, and annually thereafter, upon 45 days' notice, of Bonds called by lot, at 105% and accrued interest.

Redeemable also in whole or in part, at the option of the Government, on November 1, 1936, or on any interest date thereafter, at 105% and accrued interest, upon six months' notice.

Coupon Bonds in denominations of \$1,000 and \$500, not interchangeable.

Principal and interest payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of weight and fineness in New York City, either at the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. or at the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Fiscal Agents, without deduction for any Belgian taxes present or future.

Baron M. Houtart, Minister of Finance, and M. Emile Francqui, Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet of the Kingdom of Belgium, have written us as follows under date of October 25, 1926:

With reference to the Kingdom of Belgium Stabilization Loan, 1926, for \$100,000,000 U. S. A. or its equivalent in other foreign currencies, we have the honor to furnish the following information:

Arrangements have been made for the issue of the entire Stabilization Loan as follows:

\$50,000,000 principal amount in the United States of America.

Fcs. 32,000,000 principal amount in Switzerland

£ 7,250,000 principal amount in England.

Kr. 9,000,000 principal amount in Sweden.

£ 1,250,000 principal amount in Holland.

PURPOSE OF THE LOAN

The proceeds of the Loan will be paid directly to the National Bank of Belgium, thus reducing by an equivalent amount of francs the debt of the Government to the Bank. These funds received by the National Bank will be devoted by it to immediate stabilization of the currency, in terms of the Royal Decree, dated October 25th, 1926, and Royal Decree dated October 20th, 1926, whereby the National Bank is required, on and after the 25th day of October, 1926, to maintain a minimum reserve in gold and/or foreign currencies of 40 per cent. (at least 30 per cent. being in gold) of its note circulation and other demand liabilities; and Royal Decree dated October 25th, 1926, whereby on and after the aforesaid day the National Bank is required to redeem its notes in terms of gold.

The National Bank is charged with the duty of carrying out the monetary policy, and steps have been taken to provide the Bank with all powers requisite for this purpose and to assure it of the necessary freedom of action.

We may also mention that, in connection with the stabilization program, credits to the National Bank have been arranged by the Central and Reserve Banks of the following countries: Austria, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Japan, Sweden, United States of America.

The present Government is a coalition of all the important political parties in Belgium, formed for the purpose of establishing sound financial conditions, and all the decisions regarding stabilization and monetary policy have been taken unanimously.

PRELIMINARY MEASURES The way has been made clear for stabilization by the adoption of the following important measures:

A—Reduction of Floating Debt. Under the provisions of the Royal Decree of July 31st, 1926, short term debt to the amount of Francs 4,201,436,000 has been converted into Preference Shares of the Belgian National Railway Company, guaranteed by the Government, with the result that such internal floating debt of the Government has been reduced to Francs 2,153,000,000, inclusive of postal deposit accounts.

The external floating debt of Belgium amounts to the equivalent of \$24,148,000. The Government and the National Bank have made full provision in foreign currencies to meet this debt from funds already in hand, exclusive of the proceeds of the Stabilization Loan.

B—Fonds d'Amortissement de la Dette Publique. This is an autonomous public institution created by Law of June 7th, 1926, to undertake the amortization of Government debt. It receives in addition to the sums specifically provided by law annually for amortization:

1. A special contribution for a period of four years of Francs 1,500,000,000 minimum per annum, derived from new taxation voted for the purpose. 2. The Preference Shares of the Belgian National Railway Company having a total nominal value of Francs 10,000,000,000, of which part has been applied to debt conversion as above. The proceeds of the sale of the balance, less 10%, will be devoted to retirement of Government debt. 3. The proceeds of the sale of State property.

C—Belgian National Railway Company. The Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Belges, an autonomous organization, was created by Law of July 23rd, 1926, to operate and finance the Belgian State Railways. Since the organization of the Company, passenger and freight rates have been raised approximately 37½% to 50%.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1926

\$12,000,000 of a net

THE 1927

BUDGET

GOVERNMENT DEBT

the population.

If, in future, the Government shall issue any loan, whether internal or external, having a lien on any specific revenues or assets, the bonds of the Stabilization Loan, 1926, shall share ratably in any such lien.

THE ABOVE BONDS ARE OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS STATED BELOW, AT 94% AND ACCRUED INTEREST, TO YIELD 7.50% TO MATURITY.

Subscription books will be opened at the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co. and Guaranty Company of New York, at 10 o'clock A. M., Tuesday, October 26, 1926, and will be closed in their discretion. The right is reserved to reject any and all applications, and also, in any case, to award a smaller amount than applied for. All subscriptions will be received subject to the issue and delivery to us of the Bonds as planned.

The amounts due on allotments will be payable at the office of J. P. Morgan & Co., in New York funds to their order, and the date of payment (on or about November 4, 1926) will be stated in the notices of allotment. Interim Certificates will be delivered pending the preparation and delivery of the definitive Bonds.

J. P. Morgan & Co.

First National Bank
Bankers Trust Company, New York
The Equitable Trust Co., New York
Harris, Forbes & Co.
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First Trust and Savings Bank, Chicago

Lee, Higginson & Co.

E. H. Rollins & Sons

Central Trust Company of Illinois, Chicago

Guaranty Company of New York

The National City Company
National Bank of Commerce in New York
The New York Trust Company
Kidd, Peabody & Co.
Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.
Spencer Trask & Co.
Illinois Merchants Trust Company, Chicago
The Union Trust Company, Pittsburgh

New York, October 26, 1926.

As subscriptions have been received in excess of the amount of bonds offered, this advertisement appears only as a matter of record.

